

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

Intelligence Information Cable

• PRIORITY

IN

3.5(c)

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GROUP 1
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311254Z

CITE

DIST 31 JANUARY 1968

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COUNTRY SOUTH VIETNAM

3.3(h)(2)

17063-166-6

DOI

SUBJECT SITUATION REPORT AS OF 1800 HOURS LOCAL TIME

ACQ

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SOURCE

1. DURING THE EARLY MORNING OF 31 JANUARY, THE VIET CONG (VC) STRUCK AT NINE TARGETS IN THE CITY OF SAIGON WITH AS ESTIMATED LOSS OF AT LEAST 60 MEN. THE POLICE ESTIMATE THAT MORE THAN 100 VIETNAMESE POLICE WERE KILLED. U.S. FORCES ALSO SUFFERED CASUALTIES. AT 1530 HOURS ON THE 31ST, THE POLICE WERE TRYING TO ROOT OUT A GROUP OF VC WHO HAD OCCUPIED A HOUSE IN DOWNTOWN SAIGON.

2. IN I CORPS, THE VC WERE ACTIVE IN ALL PROVINCES. AS OF 0830 HOURS, THE SITUATIONS:

A. QUANG TRI: QUANG TRI CITY WAS UNDER GROUND AND ROCKET

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ATTACK FROM A VARIETY OF DIRECTIONS BUT THE SITUATION WAS UNDER CONTROL.

B. THUS THIEN: ACCORDING TO MILITARY SOURCES, HUE WAS UNDER MORTAR ATTACK.

C. QUANG NAM: THE SITUATION APPEARED STABILIZED IN HOI AN CITY, WITH THE VC HAVING BEEN CLEARED OUT. SEVERAL DISTRICTS WERE UNDER ATTACK, WITH HIEU NHON IN PARTICULAR BEING HARD HIT.

D. QUANG TIN: THE VC ATTACKED TAM KY CITY WITH SMALL ARMS AND MORTARS AT 0445 HOURS.

E. QUANG NGAI: QUANG NGAI CITY WAS ATTACKED BY VC WHO USED RECOILLESS RIFLE FIRE IN EARLY MORNING HOURS.

F. DANANG CITY: SMALL ARMS, MORTAR AND ARTILLERY FIRE CONTINUED THROUGHOUT THE NIGHT SOUTH OF THE CITY. THERE WERE ALSO ROCKET ATTACKS ON DANANG AND THE MARBLE MOUNTAIN AIRBASES. A GROUND ATTACK AGAINST THE DANANG RIVER BRIDGE WAS REPULSED.

3. ON THE NIGHT OF 29 JANUARY, THE VC AND NORTH VIETNAMESE ARMY (NVA) LAUNCHED WELL-PLANNED AND WELL-COORDINATED ATTACKS ON NHA TRANG, BAN ME THUOT, PLEIKU, KONTUM CITY, TUY HOA, QUI NHON AND OTHER SMALL AREAS THROUGHOUT THE II CORPS AREA.

AS OF 1300 HOURS ON 31 JANUARY, THE SITUATION APPEARED TO BE

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UNDER CONTROL IN ALL II CORPS PROVINCIAL CAPITALS EXCEPT KONTUM, PHAN THIET AND BAN ME THUOT, ALTHOUGH FIGHTING STILL CONTINUED IN PLEIKU CITY AND QUI NHON AND IN THE OUTSKIRTS OF TUY HOA. IN QUI NHON, SPORADIC FIRING CONTINUED, WITH THE RADIO AND RAILWAY STATIONS IN ENEMY HANDS. AMERICAN CIVILIANS IN BAN ME THUOT WERE PREPARING TO EVACUATE. IN PHAN THIET CITY, THE SITUATION WAS CONFUSED, WITH ENEMY UNITS IN THE TOWN.

4. AS OF 1300 HOURS ON 31 JANUARY, NHA TRANG CITY WAS RECOVERING FROM TWO DAYS AND NIGHTS OF FIGHTING WITH THE 7TH AND 8TH BNS OF THE NVA 18B REGIMENT. THE 7TH BN PENETRATED THE TOWN, DESTROYED SECTOR HEADQUARTERS (HQS) AND CAPTURED PROVINCE HQS AND THE RADIO STATION BEFORE BEING DRIVEN OUT, LEAVING BEHIND ABOUT 70 DEAD AND 20 CAPTURED. AT 1300 HOURS, THERE WAS STILL SOME SCATTERED SNIPING ON THE FRINGES OF THE TOWN.

5. A MEMBER OF AN NVA SWIMMING DEMOLITION TEAM WHO WAS CAPTURED STATED THAT TEN 3-MAN SUCH TEAMS WERE OPERATING IN THE CAM RANH AREA. THE CAPTIVE CONFESSED THAT HE WAS A MEMBER OF THE TEAM THAT BLEW A 30-FOOT HOLE IN THE NORWEGIAN TANKER "PELICAN" DURING THE EARLY MORNING OF 31 JANUARY.

6. ALSO AS OF 1300 HOURS, NO UNUSUAL ACTIVITY WAS REPORTED IN

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QUANG DUC, LAM DONG, TUYN DUC, PHU BON OR NINH THUAN PROVINCES.

7. IN III CORPS, THE BIEN HOA AIRFIELD RECEIVED SMALL ARMS, AUTOMATIC WEAPONS AND MORTAR FIRE, RESULTING IN DAMAGE TO RUNWAYS AND OIL TANKS. TAN SON NHUT AIRFIELD, ON EDGE OF SAIGON, RECEIVED MORTAR, SMALL ARMS AND AUTOMATIC WEAPONS FIRE WHEN ABOUT 100 VC PENETRATED THE PERIMETER ON THE NORTH SIDE IN THE EARLY MORNING HOURS.

8. DURING THE NIGHT OF 30 JANUARY, THE VC HIT AT TARGETS IN AT LEAST SIX IV CORPS PROVINCES, AS FOLLOWS:

A. DINH TUONG: THERE WAS HEAVY VC ACTION THROUGHOUT THE PROVINCE.

B. KIEN PHONG: CAO LANH CITY WAS UNDER VC ATTACK.

C. CHAU DOC: CHAU PHU CITY WAS ATTACKED CIRCA 0700 HOURS ON 31 JANUARY. AS OF 1330 HOURS, REINFORCEMENTS HAD ARRIVED AND THE SITUATION WAS EXPECTED TO IMPROVE.

D. BA XUYEN: SOC TRANG CITY WAS ATTACKED AT 0300 HOURS BY AN ESTIMATED VC COMPANY THAT PENETRATED THE CITY. STREET FIGHTING WAS IN PROGRESS AS OF 0800 HOURS.

E. KIEN HOA: A VC FORCE, ESTIMATED AS POSSIBLY TWO BNS, ATTACKED BEN TRI CITY AT 0200 HOURS WITH SMALL ARMS, MACHINE GUNS AND ROCKETS. THE VC PENETRATED THE CITY AND ENGAGED ARVN IN STREET FIGHTING.

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AS OF 1330 HOURS, THE VC HAD BEEN DRIVEN TO THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE CITY, WHERE THE FIGHTING CONTINUED.

F. PHONG DINH: AT CIRCA 0215 HOURS, CAN THO CITY AND AIRFIELD WERE ATTACKED BY VC WHO PENETRATED THE WEST END OF THE AIRFIELD A SHORT DISTANCE. REMNANTS OF THE ATTACKING VC BN ATTEMPTED TO WITHDRAW CIRCA 0700 HOURS AND WERE BEING PURSUED BY ARVN AND AIR UNITS. WITHIN THE CITY, THE POLICE WERE TRYING TO ROUND UP STRAGGLERS.

9.

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